



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

Winter Colloquium
Series 2019

Dr. Luisa Schwartzman



My work investigates the ways that classification and meaning-making around race and ethnicity are implicated in the reproduction of inequality, and in efforts by contemporary state institutions to track and address the inequalities that have arisen from earlier, and ongoing, exclusionary use of such categories. Empirically, much of my work focuses on the relationship between racial classification, social inequality and social policy in Brazil. My earlier work addressed how we can think quantitatively about social inequality and about affirmative action policies in a context where the boundaries between “black” and “white” are relatively fuzzy and porous. I have also, with the help of co-authors, extended this research beyond Brazil to look at the relationship between racial classification, immigration and the state in Germany and the UK. Currently, I am extending this work to think about how different measures of “race” (skin color, geographic location, and census classification) can be used to understand the reproduction of violence in the Brazilian context. I have also been involved in research that investigates how multiculturalism and affirmative action are understood differently in different countries, especially Brazil and Canada.

"Color violence, deadly geographies, and the meanings of “race” in Brazil“

The paper uses nationally representative survey data to examine how “race” relates to violent victimization, and to people’s support for violent practices of social control. I take “race” to be a set of relational practices rather than bounded “racial groups.” I operationalize this idea methodologically by triangulating three measures of “race” — self-identified “census race,” interviewer-identified skin color, and racial composition of the municipality — in conjunction with measures of class, gender and space, to illuminate how racialization and “groupness” are implicated in the reproduction of violence. I find that whiter geographic spaces have lower overall levels of violent victimization, but that interviewer-identified darker-skinned individuals are disproportionately victimized in these whiter geographic spaces. Net of other variables, self-identified census race is not correlated with violent victimization. I find that public support for violent practices can best be understood by considering people's simultaneous relationships to race, gender, class and spatial categories and hierarchies.

Thursday, February 14, 2019

4:00 pm, SSC 6210

Refreshments at 3:30pm in SSC 6256

All Welcome!

For More Information email: mer@uwo.ca